

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 ABF-01

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJECT: G-LEVEL SALARIES - STAFF TO VOTE ON WHETHER TO
STRIKE

REF: GENEVA 11268

1. AT THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE STAFF ASSEMBLY
HELD LAST FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, RADICAL ELEMENTS IN THE
STAFF COUNCIL SUCCEEDED IN GETTING THE STAFF ASSEMBLY TO
ADOPT THE STATEMENT REPORTED REFTEL WHICH CONCLUDES THAT
THE DECISION OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE EXECUTIVE
HEADS ON G-LEVEL SALARIES IS UNACCEPTABLE ON THE BASIS OF
PRINCIPLE. ON THESE GROUNDS, IT WAS FURTHER DECIDED THAT
A REFERENDUM SHOULD BE HELD TO DECIDE THE FOLLOWING
QUESTION: QUOTE DO YOU AGREE THAT A GENERAL STRIKE SHOULD
BE CALLED, THE MODALITIES OF WHICH WOULD BE DETERMINED BY
THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE OF THE STAFF COUNCIL? UNQUOTE VOTING
ON THIS QUESTION WILL TAKE PLACE THURSDAY AND FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 1 AND 2 AND WE SHOULD HAVE SOME UNOFFICIAL IDEA
BY FRIDAY EVENING OF WHAT THE RESULTS ARE.

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2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE STAFF COUNCIL PLANS TO ISSUE A
STATEMENT POSSIBLY LATE THIS AFTERNOON (NOVEMBER 30) TO
THE EFFECT THAT IT WOULD BE THEIR "INTENTION" TO HOLD A
ONE-DAY "PROTEST AND WARNING STRIKE", PROBABLY SOMETIME
THE WEEK BEGINNING DECEMBER 4. THOSE CLOSE TO THE QUESTION
BELIEVE THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT MANY PEOPLE WILL IN-

DEED VIEW THE ISSUE AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AND, THEREFORE, AGREE TO VOTE FOR A STRIKE ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT IT WILL BE FOR ONLY ONE DAY AND THAT THEY ARE, THEREFORE, MORALLY OBLIGATED TO JOIN IN A SYMBOLIC GESTURE.

3. UN OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT A STRIKE LIMITED TO ONE DAY WOULD NOT BE TOO DAMAGING SINCE THEY COULD MANAGE FOR ONE DAY BY REQUISITIONING SPECIAL SERVICES TO TIDE THEM OVER, ALTHOUGH SOME MEETINGS MIGHT BE INTERRUPTED WHERE TRANSLATORS COULD NOT BE FOUND. THEIR FEAR IS THAT, SINCE THE REFERENDUM QUESTION REALLY LEAVES THE MODALITIES TO BE DECIDED BY THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE OF THE STAFF COUNCIL, THE PAPER BEING ISSUED THIS AFTERNOON STATING THAT IT IS THEIR "INTENTION" TO HAVE A ONE-DAY "PROTEST AND WARNING STRIKE", MAY BE A RUSE TO INDUCE PEOPLE TO GO ALONG WITH THE STRIKE, AFTER WHICH THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE COULD NEVERTHELESS DECIDE ON A MUCH MORE SERIOUS MOVE. THE ARGUMENT IS THAT, IF A ONE-DAY STRIKE IS INDEED THE REAL INTENTION OF THE STAFF COUNCIL, THIS COULD HAVE BEEN MADE EXPLICIT IN THE REFERENDUM ITSELF SO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO QUESTION ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE ARE BEING ASKED TO VOTE ON. IN FACT, THE REFERENDUM GIVES THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE CARTE BLANCHE, AND THERE ARE SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT THE RADICALS BEHIND THIS ARE REALLY AIMING FOR.

4. IN SUMMARY, THE BETTING RIGHT NOW IS THAT THERE WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VERY LIKELY BE AT LEAST A ONE-DAY STRIKE. THERE IS THE FURTHER POSSIBILITY THAT IT COULD BECOME MORE SERIOUS IF MODERATE ELEMENTS IN THE STAFF COUNCIL DO NOT SOON GRASP WHAT IS HAPPENING AND BEGIN TO MANEUVER WITH MORE AGILITY. SORENSON

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